

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A biocompatible therapeutic article comprising, a macromer having polymerized end groups, precipitated human growth hormone a polypeptide, and a molecule or mixture of molecules which preferentially excludes proteins, wherein said ~~polypeptide is insoluble in said article, wherein said polypeptide is selected from parathyroid-related polypeptide, somatostatin, luteinizing hormone releasing hormone, GLP-1 amylin and GLP-1 amyline analogues~~ molecule or mixture of molecules is present in an amount sufficient to reduce the solubility of said human growth hormone in said article to less than 10 mg/ml.

2. (previously presented) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said molecule which preferentially excludes proteins is selected from the group consisting of a macromer, poly(ethylene glycol), hyaluronic acid, and poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

3. (previously presented) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said macromer comprises:

(a) a region forming a central core;

(b) at least two degradable regions attached to said core; and

(c) at least two ~~polymerizable~~ polymerized end groups, wherein said ~~polymerizable~~ polymerized end groups are attached to said degradable regions.

4. (previously presented) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 3, wherein said central core comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(ethyloxazoline), poly(ethylene oxide)-co-poly(propylene oxide) block copolymers, polysaccharides, carbohydrates, proteins, and combinations thereof.

5. (previously presented) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 3, wherein said degradable regions comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(α -hydroxy acids), poly(lactones), poly(amino acids), poly(anhydrides), poly(orthoesters), poly(orthocarbonates), and poly(phosphoesters).

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said article comprises at least 5% ~~polypeptide~~ human growth hormone by dry weight.

11. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said article comprises at least 10% human growth hormone by dry weight.

12. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said molecule or mixture of molecules is present in an amount sufficient to reduce the solubility of said human growth hormone in said article to less than 1 mg/ml.

13. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein the time at which 5% of the releasable human growth hormone is released from the article is greater than 1/16 of t_{50} .

14. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said human growth hormone is released from said article such that t_{50} is greater than or equal to 5/8 of t_{80} .

15. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said articles release at least 80% of the human growth hormone at a time $1\frac{1}{4}$ times greater than t_{50} .

16. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said article has a particle size of less than about 75 microns.

17. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said macromer has a water soluble region comprising poly(ethylene glycol) of about 500 to 20,000 daltons.

18. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said mixture of molecules comprises a positively charged ion-carrying reagent.

19. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said mixture of molecules comprises a negatively charged ion-carrying reagent.

20. (new) The biocompatible therapeutic article of claim 1, wherein said mixture of molecules comprises a surfactant.